

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

3 May 1949

25X1A9a

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. W. JOHN KENNEY

I have this date signed a directive to the Chairman of the Munitions Board covering the conversion of the Armed Services Petroleum Board to the "Petroleum Committee" of the Munitions Board and defining the functions of this Committee with respect to the three Departments and the other agencies of the National Military Establishment.

The memorandum of 18 February addressed to you and signed by Mr. Forrestal is thereby cancelled.

/s/ LOUIS JOHNSON

CC: Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force
Chairman, Munitions Board
Chairman, Research and Development Bd.
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Armed Services Petroleum Board

OSD DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

3 MAY 1949

C
O
P
Y

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE CHAIRMAN, MUNITIONS BOARD

SUBJECT: Armed Services Petroleum Board

1. The mission which the Armed Services Petroleum Board has performed since its reconstitution on 14 February 1948, is that of advising the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Munitions Board, the Research and Development Board, the Departments and other agencies of the National Military Establishment, regarding petroleum plans and policies. After a review of the work of this Board, I have concluded that it is desirable to retain a central agency for the coordination of all policy and planning matters relating to petroleum within the National Military Establishment, and that such agency should be located within the Munitions Board structure.

2. The Armed Services Petroleum Board is hereby transferred to the Munitions Board intact as an organization effective 1 May 1949, including its present personnel, property, equipment and records. Not later than 15 May 1949 the Munitions Board will reconstitute the Board as the Petroleum Committee under the cognizance of the Munitions Board.

3. In order to clarify the mission of the reconstituted Petroleum Committee and the scope of its authority and relationships, and in order to prevent duplication of effort within the Departments and Agencies of the National Military Establishment, it shall be the function and responsibility of the Petroleum Committee to facilitate Service and interservice planning and coordination of effort in the field of policy and planning relating to petroleum matters. The Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to and performing such services, duties and functions in petroleum matters as may be requested by any agency of the National Military Establishment. The staff of the Petroleum Committee shall not be duplicated by the establishment of other staffs for petroleum planning in other agencies of the National Military Establishment, except that this is not to be so construed as prohibiting the assignment within such activities of small groups of personnel whose primary function is to insure full utilization of the services of the Petroleum Committee.

4. Specifically, the functions of the Petroleum Committee shall include the following with respect to petroleum matters:

(a) Prepare for the Munitions Board plans governing the military aspects of industrial mobilization on petroleum for a future emergency;

(b) Prepare for the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Munitions Board evaluations of the petroleum feasibility of strategic or logistic plans based upon current estimates of potential production, procurement, and transportation capabilities maintained by the Armed Services Petroleum Board;

(c) Analyze and review for the appropriate authorities as directed, both current and mobilization programs for military requirements for petroleum as submitted by the Services;

(d) Coordinate for the Munitions Board policies and programs for the use of or disposal by the military Departments of petroleum plants and facilities and on the maintenance of an adequate industrial reserve of petroleum facilities;

(e) Conduct studies on those phases of industrial security concerned with petroleum facilities;

(f) Advise the Munitions Board with respect to foreign trade and related matters which concern petroleum,

(g) Prepare estimates of petroleum capabilities for war of foreign nations;

(h) Furnish Military Establishment representation on inter-Departmental committees on petroleum, and represent the Military Establishment in its relationships with the Military Petroleum Advisory Board;

(i) Advise the Munitions Board on coordination of specifications and standardization of petroleum items;

(j) Prepare such studies and perform such duties and functions in connection with petroleum matters as may be requested by the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Munitions Board, the Research and Development Board, and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force;

(k) Advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Munitions Board, the Research and Development Board, the Armed Services Petroleum Purchasing Agency, and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, on petroleum policy matters, including comments and recommendations on petroleum legislation;

(l) Exercise general direction, authority, and control over the Armed Services Petroleum Purchasing Agency.

LOUIS JOHNSON

cc: The Secretary of the Army
The Secretary of the Navy
The Secretary of the Air Force
The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Chairman, Research and Development Board
Chairman, Armed Services Petroleum Board